

R 071547Z APR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY LOME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9053  
INFO DIA WASHINGTON DC  
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S E C R E T LOME 000108

DS/IP/AF, DS/TIA/ITA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/07/2029

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SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO SECURITY ENVIRONMENT PROFILE  
QUESTIONNAIRE

REF: STATE 013023

Classified By: RSO Matthew Golbus for reasons 1.4 (b) (d)

POLITICAL VIOLENCE  
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II. (SBU) DEMONSTRATIONS - Responses listed below are keyed to reftel.

IA. No known ethnic or religious communities exist in-country that are prone to carrying out anti-American demonstrations. Official GOT estimates place the Muslim community at about 14% of the population, but Embassy officials believe that figure is higher and non-official sources put the number closer to 20%. There is a Lebanese expatriate community in Lome consisting of approximately 1,500 persons, both Muslims and Christians. The exact number of Muslim Lebanese in Togo is not known, but their numbers are growing. Post has received reports that new Lebanese Muslim immigrants are arriving directly from Lebanon. Other reports suggest that Lebanese Christian immigrants continue to arrive from the Ivory Coast.

i. Yes, the Committee of the Oppressed Diversity Visa Applicants (CODVA) has held a continuous sit-in that began on Friday, April 18, 2008 and ended in August 2008. The protestors were present six days a week and typically had about 100 people on business days. They were not present on Sundays.

ii. Yes, the demonstration sited above was across the street from the main CAC.

iii. 100-120 People

iv. The demonstrations were in response to frustrations and misunderstanding related to the consular green card lottery program.

IB. Peaceful. In previous reporting we noted that the CODVA had made public threats of violence and kidnapping, naming American and Togolese employees. RSO determined that these threats were not serious or credible. Other than the first week of the sit-in, this behavior did not continue.

i and ii are not applicable.

IC. No, however the primary opposition party, the Union de Forces Changement (UFC), often holds rallies and demonstrations in the capital. These rallies are generally peaceful and draw upwards of 300 people. The frequency of such events is increasing as the presidential elections campaign season has begun.

i. No

ii. Does not apply

iii. Permitted demonstrations are generally peaceful. Gatherings for which permits are not issued are usually

dispersed and, on occasion, violence ensues.

iv. No

## II. (U) MACRO CONFLICT CONDITIONS

1A. No

1B. N/A

1C. N/A

1D. N/A

## III. (S) HOST COUNTRY CAPABILITIES

1A. No. Gendarmes and Presidential Guard who man several roadblocks in Lome after dark regularly solicit bribes from drivers, including those with diplomatic license plates. Outside of Lome the roadblocks and associated corruption occur during the day as well. RSO has responded to incidents of U.S. diplomats being taken into custody by Presidential Guard elements or the police. In addition, Togo's long, porous borders make it virtually impossible for GOT officials to exercise effective border control.

1B. Yes, in November 2007 a 1 week course was held with security officers from the port of Lome. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) was the lead agency for this training. Port security elements have implemented tactics and skills from the training. The Regional Affairs Office in Accra has held three courses for the Togolese intelligence service in the area of counter narcotics trade craft. Also, ICITAP sponsored human trafficking training for 30 police officers and gendarmes in late June/ early July 2008.

1C. Yes, while low level corruption can be seen on a day to day basis, RSO continues to hear references to and suspicion of corruption at the Ministerial level.

1D. Post does not have confidence in the Togolese government's ability to detect terrorist activities in Togo, mostly due to insufficient resources and training. The GOT's intelligence and security agency, the Agence Nationale de Renseignement (National Intelligence Agency - ANR), is the lead agency on terrorism issues. The agency's Director General has shown a great deal of interest in working with the Embassy and has been quick to act on any terrorism related information shared by Post. However, as this is a young agency it remains to be seen how effective it will be.

1E. Yes

1F. On November 16, 2002, Togolese police arrested an Al-Qaeda linked Lebanese national identified as Abdallah MOHTADI and extradited him to Lebanon in March of 2003. In early March 2003 Togolese police arrested a Lebanese citizen, Fakhri Youssef BAALBAKI, on suspicion that he was planning an attack against the U.S. Embassy should the USG resort to military action in Iraq. The GOT deported BAALBAKI on June 22, 2003, when it failed to build a terrorism or criminal case. The greatest current terrorism issue in Togo is Hezbollah financing. In July 2008, a Togolese security service seized \$1.5 million from a known Hezbollah associate and turned it over to the Ministry of Finance, signaling a readiness to deal with this issue. In January and February 2009, the Togolese Minister of Security and Civil Protection signed expulsion orders for two resident Lebanese nationals who were allegedly linked to Hezbollah.

1G. For the most part the GOT has been responsive, but a lack of resources has hindered its ability to fulfill some Embassy requests. The GOT provides compound security elements who are poorly motivated and do not show a high level of discipline on duty. Requests related to VIP and/or military visits have been adequately resourced. Post was disappointed

with a lack of willingness to confront demonstrators when they became aggressive and/or harassed employees.

H. POOR. In fact Air France does not rely on Togolese government security personnel entirely, but rather has a contract security company to conduct screening of passengers, luggage, and supplies. Post has been informed by French law enforcement personnel, who provide advice to the GOT Civil Aviation Administration, that overall security at the airport is very poor. A new security administration for the airport assumed control January 1, 2007, though no significant changes have been made thus far. In a recent evaluation conducted by INL, it was determined that as of March 2009 airport security in Togo remains far below internationally accepted standards.

I. INEFFECTIVE. The Security Officer for the French Mission stated that he had provided tips to the GOT about suspected drug dealers transiting Togo. The Togolese customs and immigration agencies did not stop these individuals. In fact, it was reported that a customs officer escorted the two suspected drug dealers past all immigration and custom controls. The chief of airport security recently confided to RSO that he does not have any staff he can trust and that his higher ups are unresponsive to his pleas for assistance and a freer hand in instituting procedural change.

J. INEFFECTIVE. Border patrol forces are corrupt and regularly solicit bribes. In addition, they are only stationed at official border crossings. It reportedly only costs the equivalent of \$1 to bribe one, s way across a land border.

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INDIGENOUS TERRORISM  
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I. (U) ANTI-AMERICAN TERRORIST GROUPS

A. No

B. N/A

C. N/A

D. N/A

E. N/A

F. N/A

G. N/A

H. N/A

II. (SBU) OTHER INDIGENOUS TERRORIST GROUPS

A. No

B. N/A

C. No. However, one opposition political group did stage an IED attack against the main Gendarme camp in Lome in February 2006. Allegedly the attack was in retaliation against the GOT for its attempted arrest of an opposition leader. No one was killed or injured in the incident. Additionally, two Molotov cocktails were tossed over the wall of the German Embassy in July 2006. The devices malfunctioned and the attack, believed to be the work of Togolese soccer fans angry after being denied visas to attend the World Cup in Germany, caused no injuries or damages.

D. No

E. No  
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I. (S) TRANSNATIONAL TERRORIST INDICATORS

A. Yes. Post has received reports that some members of the Muslim Lebanese community in Togo are associated with Hezbollah. Post has also received information from customs officials regarding large sums of cash crossing the borders of Benin-Togo and Ghana-Togo.

B. Post believes their primary focus is fundraising and due to their reported success in this regard, it is unlikely that Hezbollah would consider Togo as an operational theater.

C. Post does not have any information to indicate that the GOT is sympathetic to Hezbollah; however, due to the level of corruption, it is likely that in the interest of personal gain, some Togolese government officials may allow members of the Lebanese community to engage in illegal activities such as narcotics trafficking and money laundering. The GOT has not made any public statements in support of a terrorist-supporting country on a terrorism related issue. The GOT has been, and continues to be pro-American and supportive of our efforts in the Global War on Terrorism. President Faure has cited Hezbollah fundraising as a specific issue of concern in consultations with two U.S. Ambassadors.

D. Yes. The Agence des Musulmans d'Afrique (AMA). English translation: Africa Muslim Agency. A French police officer assigned to Lome as an advisor to the GOT reported that AMA has three offices in Togo, and that it is a Kuwaiti financed NGO that may be involved in arms smuggling throughout West Africa. The French police advisor also reported that this group has strong ties to the Algerian Islamic Movement and that the country director for Togo is Algerian. The President of Togo voiced concerns to post of possible GSPC activities in Togo. ANR provided post with a list of individuals of concern traveling to Sudan for advanced Muslim studies in April 2007. The list included 10 individuals affiliated with the AMA.

Also, the Islamic NGO 'al muntada' has had a presence in Togo since the mid-1990's. Post has received information that this group has spent approximately \$400,000 on charitable activities in Togo, such as building mosques and Islamic educational programs. Embassy officials have noted that many new mosques have been built in Togo in the past few years.

There is also a known connection between some members of the Togolese Muslim community and the Accra based "Islamic Research and Reformation Center", which is an Islamic NGO. It is not known if any of these Islamic NGO's are associated with Hezbollah.

E. Unknown. Togo's Muslim community, which comprises anywhere from 12-20% of the population, has historically been moderate. A recent influx of Lebanese Muslims and growing population of Nigerian Muslims has raised concerns among some observers about the prospects for radicalization of the indigenous Muslim community. Thus far we have not seen evidence to suggest this has happened.

F. Low

G. Corruption and porous borders mean that weapons and explosives could easily be smuggled into Togo. Major narcotics trafficking routes transit Togo highlighting the ease with which any contraband could be imported.

HAWKINS